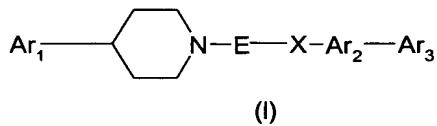


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 13-14. Please amend claims 1, 3-5, and 7-12 as follows. Please add new claim 15.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

Ar_1 is:

- (i) phenyl, naphthyl or phenyl fused by a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl; or
- (ii) heterocyclyl selected from the group list consisting of: monocyclic radicals and fused polycyclic radicals, wherein said radicals contain a total of from 5-14 ring atoms, wherein said radicals contain a total of from 1-4 ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur, and wherein individual rings of said radicals may be independently saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic, provided that at least one ring is aromatic;

where Ar_1 is independently substituted by at least one R^1 group and is independently substituted by 0-3 R^3 groups;

Ar_2 is a phenyl group, a 5-6 membered heteroaromatic group or a

bicyclic heteroaromatic group, each of which are optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the list: C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-6} acyl, C_{1-6} acyloxy, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di- C_{1-4} alkylamino, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{NR}_x\text{R}_y$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{OR}^2$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}_x\text{R}_y$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CN}$, C_2 -alkenyl, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CO}_2\text{R}^2$, $-\text{OSO}_2(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{OSO}_2\text{NR}_x\text{R}_y$ and $-\text{CO}_2(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{CH}_3$;

Ar_3 is:

- (i) phenyl, naphthyl or phenyl fused by a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl; or
- (ii) heterocyclyl selected from the group consisting of monocyclic radicals and fused polycyclic radicals, wherein said radicals contain a total of from 5-14 ring atoms, wherein said radicals

contain a total of from 1-4 ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur, and wherein individual rings of said radicals may be independently saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic, providing that at least one ring is aromatic;

wherein Ar_3 is optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the group consisting of: hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkenyloxy, C_{1-4} perfluoroalkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino (such as $-NHSO_2CH_3$, $-NHSO_2CH(CH_3)_2$), fluoro C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino (such as $-NHSO_2CH_2CF_3$), C_{1-4} alkylcarbonylamino, fluoro C_{1-4} alkylcarbonylamino, halogen (such as chlorine), nitrile, nitro, C_{1-4} perfluoroalkyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, fluoro C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylaminocarbonyl, di- C_{1-4} alkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylaminosulfonyl, di- C_{1-4} alkylaminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl and C_{1-4} alkylsulfoxy;

E is $-C_{1-6}$ alkylene-;

X is $-CONR^2-$ or $-NR^2CO-$;

wherein

R^1 is $O(CH_2)_nOR^2$;

R^2 is C_{1-4} alkyl or hydrogen;

R^3 is halogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_x and R_y are independently C_{1-4} alkyl or hydrogen;

n and m are independently 1-4; and

p is 0-4;

or a physiologically acceptable prodrug, salt or solvate thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar_1 is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl or indazolyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein E is n-butylene.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein X is -NR²CO-.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar₂ is phenyl or a 5-6-membered heteroaromatic group.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein Ar₂ is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₄alkoxy.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar₃ is phenyl, pyridyl or thienyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 7 wherein Ar₃ is substituted by halogen (e.g. chlorine), C₁₋₄perfluoroalkyl (e.g. trifluoromethyl), nitrile, C₁₋₄acyl (e.g. acetyl), C₁₋₄alkylsulfonyl (e.g. methylsulfonyl) or C₁₋₄alkylsulfonylamino.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein R¹ is -OCH₂CH₂OR².

10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar₁ is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl or indazolyl; where Ar₁ is independently substituted by at least one R¹ group and is independently substituted by 0-3 R³ groups; Ar₂ is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl or imidazolyl, each of which are optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the group list; C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl and C₁₋₄alkoxy;

Ar₃ is phenyl, pyridyl or thienyl, wherein Ar₃ is optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen (e.g. chlorine), C₁₋₄perfluoroalkyl (e.g. trifluoromethyl), nitrile, C₁₋₄acyl (e.g. acetyl), C₁₋₄alkylsulfonyl (e.g. methylsulfonyl) and C₁₋₄alkylsulfonylamino;

E is n-butylene;

X is -NR²CO-;

wherein

R¹ is -OCH₂CH₂OR²;

R² is C₁₋₄alkyl or hydrogen;

R³ is halogen, C₁₋₄alkoxy or C₁₋₄alkyl; and

n is 1-4.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of list:

4-Hydroxymethyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide (Example 3);

4'-Cyano-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide hydrochloride (Example 5);

2-(4-Cyano-phenyl)-4-methyl-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide, hydrochloride (Example 7);

2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4-methyl-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide (Example 8);

2',4'-Chloro-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide (Example 9);

4'-Chloro-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide (Example 10); and

4'-Methanesulfonylamino-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide (~~Example 12~~).

12. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. (Canceled)

14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A method for the treatment of a condition resulting from elevated circulating levels of LDL-cholesterol in a mammal in need thereof, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.